(c) Pakribarwadih is a very large block estimated to have an annual production potential of 20-25 million tonnes which will meet to a substantial extent the shortfall in coal requirement of NTPC. Allocation of further block to NTPC is under consideration along with requests for coal blocks from other Central and State Public Sector power utilities and undertakings.

**Global tenders for allotment of coal blocks**

†1117. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to carry out the mining of coal from coal blocks in the country by private or foreign institutions through global tenders;

(b) if so, whether it would reduce the employment opportunities to the local citizens and would encourage contract system and exploitation of the workers; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to safeguard the interests of the workers and to provide employment opportunities to the local citizens and to discourage the contract system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Private sector companies engaged in generation of power, production of iron and steel or production of cement are allowed under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, as amended in 1993, to carry on coal mining for their captive use. The Private Indian companies setting up or operating power projects as well as coal or lignite mines for captive consumption in such projects are allowed foreign equity up to 100% provided that the coal or lignite produced by them is meant entirely for captive consumption in power generation.

100% foreign investment in the equity of an Indian subsidiary of a foreign company or in the equity of an Indian company for setting up of coal processing plants in India is also allowed subject to the conditions that such an Indian subsidiary or the Indian company (a) shall not do coal mining and (b) shall not sell the washed coal or sized coal from their Coal Processing Plants in the open market and shall supply the washed coal or sized coal from their Coal Processing Plants to the respective parties sending raw coal to such Coal Processing Plants for washing or sizing.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The other private Indian companies engaged in exploration or mining of coal and lignite for captive consumption for production of iron and steel and production of cement are allowed foreign equity up to 74%.

(b) and (c) Fresh investment from private sector in coal mining will only add to the employment opportunities. Work systems would be governed under the relevant statutes.

**Coal blocks allotted to private parties**

†1118. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the coal blocks in the country handed over to private sector by Government for exploration under captive mining and when they were handed over to private sector;

(b) the number, out of those coal blocks where the production has started indicating the quantity thereof being produced;

(c) whether Government are also importing coal;

(d) if so, the quantity of coal imported during each of the last two years;

(e) the efforts Government have made to increase exploration of coal in the country itself rather than to import the same; and

(f) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, as amended in 1993, companies in the private sector can do captive mining of coal for power generation, iron and steel production and cement production. No prospecting license is granted in favour of a private company for exploration, unless the private company has been allocated a coal block for captive mining. 3 coal blocks were given to private companies where further exploration was carried out by them. Out of those blocks production has started in 1 block. 2,965 million tonnes of coal has been produced from this block in the year 2004-05.

(c) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.